Marked-Up Copy
Serial No: 09/511,316
Amendment Filed on:
Dec 18, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS

--Claims 13-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Twice Amended) [The] An alkali-metal containing niobate-based piezoelectric sintering material composition [according to claim 13, wherein said] comprising a solid solution [is] represented by a composition formula $Li_x(K_{1-y}Na_y)_{1-x}(Nb_{1-z}Ta_z)O_3$, wherein x = 0.001 to 0.2, y = 0 to 0.8, z = 0 to 0.4, and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of Cu, Li and Ta.

16. (Amended) [The] An alkali metal-containing niobate-based piezoelectric sintering material composition [according to claim 14, wherein said at least on additive is] comprising a solid solution represented by a composition formula $K_{1-x}Na_xNbO_3$, wherein x = 0 to 0.8, and Cu as an additive present in an amount of 0.001 to 5 mol%.

Claims 19-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Amended) [The method according to claim 19] A method for producing an alkali metal-containing niobate-based piezoelectric sintering material composition, comprising:

adding an additive powder containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of Cu, Li and Ta to a powder of niobate represented by formula $ANbO_3$, wherein A is an alkali metal, then blending these powders together;

molding said blended powders and sintering the same, and

D

treating the resulting sintered substance to impart piezoelectricity thereto,

wherein said additive powder is 0.001 to 5 mol% of Cu, and [said] the blended powder of a niobate is $K_{1-x}Na_xNbO_3$, wherein x = 0 to 0.8.

23. (Amended) [The method according to claim 19] A method for producing an alkali metal-containing niobate-based piezoelectric sintering material composition, comprising:

adding an additive powder containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of Cu, Li and Ta to a powder of niobate represented by formula $ANbO_3$, wherein A is an alkali metal, then blending these powders together;

molding said blended powders and sintering the same, and

treating the resulting sintered substance to impart piezoelectricity thereto,

wherein [said] the blended powder of a niobate is $Li_x(K_{1-y}Na_y)_{1-x}(Nb_{1-z}Ta_z)O_3$, wherein x = 0.001 to 0.2, y = 0 to 0.8, z = 0 to 0.4.

Claims 25-28 (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (New).--